

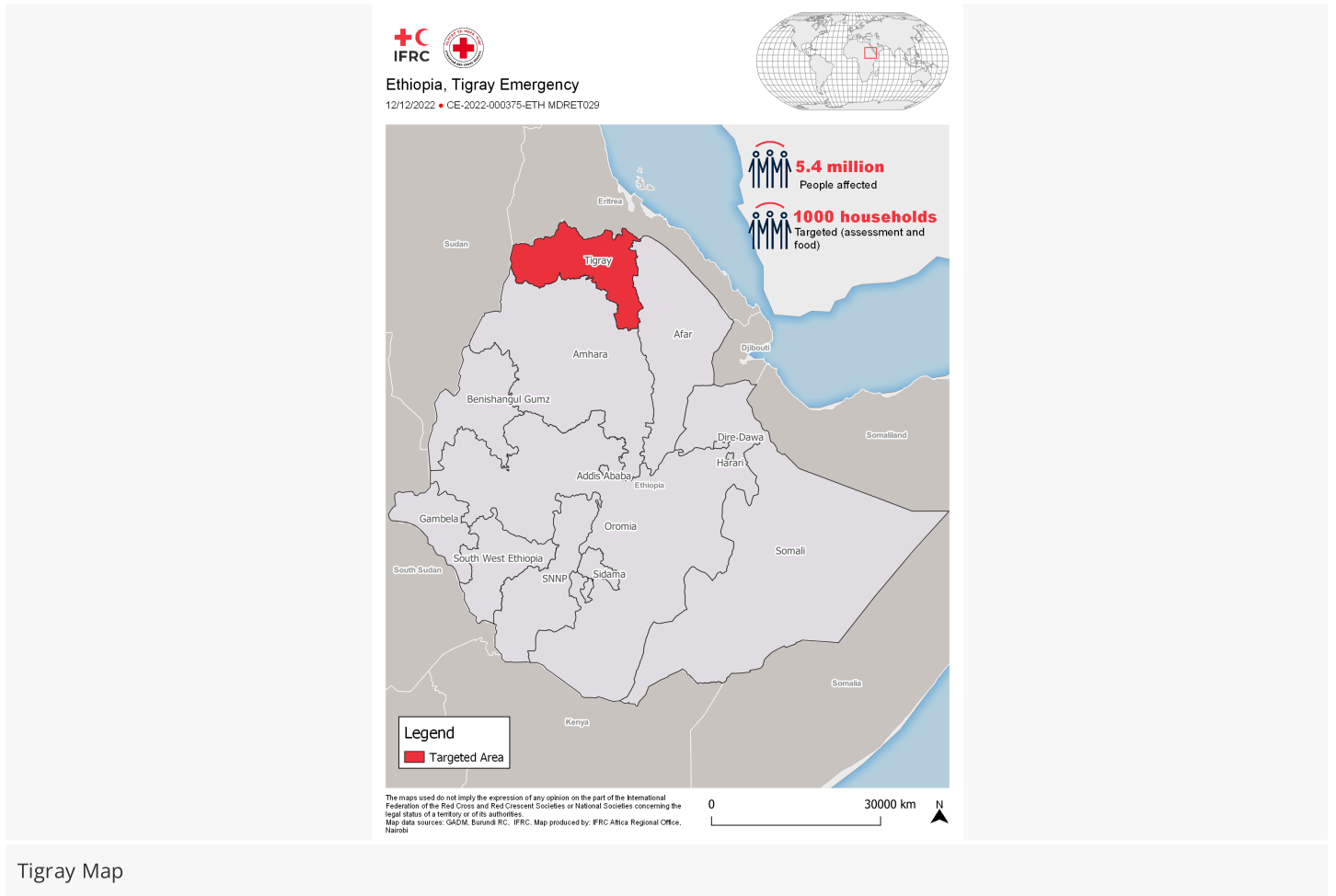


Ethiopian RC staff and volunteers from ERCS website 15.12.2022

Appeal: <b>MDRET029</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 993,549</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Orange</b>	Hazard: <b>Complex Emergency</b>
Glide Number: <b>CE-2022-000375-ETH</b>	People Affected: <b>7,200,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>50,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>15-12-2022</b>	Operational End Date: <b>30-09-2023</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>9 months</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Tigray</b>			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

# Description of the Event



## Date when the trigger was met

15-03-2023

## What happened, where and when?

The conflict that broke out on 4th November 2020 between the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) left an estimated 1.8 million people displaced, claimed, more than 600,000 lives according to some estimates, and left Tigray in ruins with many Tigrayans struggling to obtain basic needs and medical care. A telecommunications, electricity, and banking blackout that lasted for roughly two years, effectively cut Tigrayans off from the rest of the world. Furthermore, the distribution of aid was blocked for many months due to road and air transportation blockade, and insecure situation for humanitarian access. Up to December 2022, an estimated 19M million people in Northern Ethiopia, Tigray and neighboring regions facing severe acute food insecurity.

Following the signing of peace agreement between the two conflicting parties, The Federal Government and TPLF, November 2022, on "permanent cessation of hostilities to end the two-year-long conflict including the protection of civilians' human rights, the resumption of public services in the region, the unobstructed flow of humanitarian supplies to Tigray, and facilitation of the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to the region", ERCS requested support of CHF 171 007 from Disaster relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15/12/2022, to conduct a detailed multisectoral assessment to inform the response and recovery needs. The DREF was launched, 19/12/2022, MDRET029 <https://www.ifrc.org/media/51572>, allowing deployment of Surge capacity to support ERCS on assessment, and emergency food support to meet the needs of 5000 most vulnerable in urgent support needs. The initial operational timeframe was three months.

Ethiopian Red Cross Society jointly with government and PNS in country conducted and submitted an assessment report which was shared on 15th March 2023, describing the critical needs to scale up assistance especially in newly accessible areas. Following the initial assessments, Operations Update 1 was published on 30th March 2023, <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=659583> targeting to scale up emergency food supply, WASH and conducting eVCA, for developing a community consulted long term recovery and rebuilding plan with an additional budget of 822,542 and increase target population from 5,000 people to 50,000 people. The time for



implementation of the DREF was scaled up by 6 months from the initial plan of 3 months to make 9 months, with the overall allocation of CHF 993,549.



IFRC /ERCS senior management field monitoring visit, food distribution to children receiving daily meals at ERCS Mekelle branch support

## Scope and Scale

Tigray Crisis started in November 2020 with active violence. Access for humanitarians achieved in December 2022. The region has experienced a blockage of access and of financial services for a period of 2 years, however, following the peace agreement, the services have gradually started and access to the areas for humanitarian assistance as well. ERCS assessment through this DREF showed the devastating impact of the crisis for the communities and scale of the humanitarian conditions that required urgent assistance.

The Tigray crisis has devastating toll on livelihood and livelihood assets at household level for years. From the assessment conducted by ERCS as of march 2023, the crisis has consequences on over 7.2 million people in different sectors, creating a complex humanitarian situation. A huge impact also recorded on the displaced population which represent one third of population within the Tigray region alone and more than 12 million in the neighboring regions where conflict escalated, and where most of IDP are hosted. Agriculture, and other means of livelihood were nonfunctional for the 2 years of conflict, making it difficult to community to meet their basic food and nutrition needs. Infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, roads, bridges, water and sanitation facilities, communication and electricity systems were destroyed or severely damaged. Communities lost their purchasing power to access markets which had experienced super inflation due to limited supply.

The displacement resulting from the conflict created an escalation of the above mentioned needs. People migrated to townships and lived either in identified displacement sites, makeshift shelters, or overcrowded rented houses among host communities. 40% of community shelters were either damaged, burned or looted.

The food security assessment conducted by WFP in January 2022 reported that 75% of the communities were relying on severe consumption-based coping strategies (such as limiting portion sizes, reducing the number of meals per day, and reducing portions for adults so that children and/or pregnant women can eat). While the number of people depending on food assistance increased from 15 % prior to the crisis to 75 %.

On average 79% of the health system and facilities remain to be reset as highly affected by the crisis, both the structure, the information, and the availability of health staff. Malnutrition and overall health situation were preoccupation, epidemic was difficult to track or address because of the damaged system and infrastructure.

The interim government was not yet in place and the peace agreement was slowly implemented. Local authorities' infrastructure and staff were also yet to resume their fully services. Access within the region was not fully approved, as some areas were still under militia, the Western zone remains inaccessible.

By the end of January 2023, the banking system had started with restrictions on withdrawing amounts. The markets assessed in 2 locations were functional but still limited.

In the two years of conflict, there has been reports of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) with medical and psychological support needed for survivors within all the zones. 45% of interviewed communities reported to experience either form of SGBV. Given the scale of displacement, family separation is also at high scale, requiring family reunification for unaccompanied children. Child protection needs have emerged at large scale while the schools were suspended for 2 years.

ERCS branches remained active throughout the conflict period, dependable by most humanitarian actors to reach the inaccessible areas through their network of branches. The conflict violated IHL, where staff, volunteers and the red cross assets were also targeted, where more than 12 staff and volunteers lost lives, while more than 150 ambulances were looted, damaged, or burned. To resume the response capacity in Tigray, the branches required immediate support including MHPSS to staff and volunteers.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. MDRET029 DREF documents - plan and 02 Operational updates	<a href="https://www.ifrc.org/fr/appeals?date_from=&amp;date_to=&amp;search_terms=&amp;search_terms=&amp;appeal_code=MDRET029&amp;search_terms=&amp;text=">https://www.ifrc.org/fr/appeals?date from=&amp;date to=&amp;search terms=&amp;search terms=&amp;appeal code=MDRET029&amp;search terms=&amp;text=</a>

## National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Ethiopia/Djibouti is providing technical support to ERCS for the Implementation of the DREF and strategic coordination with PNSs. Surge support for assessment was deployed for 4 months to lead and support the multi-sectoral assessment and the DM consultant to support development of emergence and rehabilitation response planning as part of the DREF including community eVCA to inform long term recovery.</p> <p>The delegation technical staff were engaged in the continuous support to the NS for the emergency response and the development of transitional strategies to the Tigray situation. Program Operations Coordinator, Senior Partnerships and Resource Development Advisor, and Senior Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) Officer worked closely with the NS. The delegation and the NS worked together during this operation to maintained adequate coordination with movement partners but also all required IFRC regional units for an efficient response and subsequent advocacy, communications and resource mobilization efforts to the overall Tigray response plan.</p>
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	<p>The PNSs currently present in the country include Austrian, Danish, Finnish, German, Italian, Netherlands, Norwegian, Canadian and Swiss Red Cross Societies.</p> <p>Danish Red Cross is supporting food assistance, health, WASH, and shelter interventions in Tigray (see more details on the interventions under Current National Society Action). In addition, support is provided for reconstruction of branch offices. DRC is also</p>



supporting the resumption of minimal ambulance services in Northwestern, Eastern zones and Mekele as well as providing PSS activities, caring for volunteers in the three branches, PSS and SGBV outreach activities in Northwestern zone. In addition, support is provided for reconstruction of branch offices (Shire zonal branch, Laelay Adiyabo woreda branch and Mekele zonal branch).

ERCS with the support of Italian Red Cross supported Quiha hospital in Mekele with 18 months' staff salary, the salary support was planned to continue in 2023.

ERCS with the support of Austrian Red Cross supported WASH, EMS and Basic needs in Southern Tigray.

Netherlands RC have supported ERCS with WASH interventions, including hygiene promotion.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC has been present in Tigray throughout the conflict, working with ERCS in the areas of RFL, Health, WASH, protection, shelter, and food. ICRC has also led the security coordination among the movement partners working in Tigray in terms coordination, access, and logistics. ICRC is working closely with the NS to ensure essential services are provided to communities in the areas where aces is still volatile.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	Yes
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>On 13 November 2022, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission of Ethiopia held a meeting with Implementing Partners to come up with modalities for discharging their respective responsibilities reaching out to the Northern Ethiopia conflict affected population. The Ethiopian Government and donor partners reached a mutual agreement on emergency management upon the launching of full access to enclosed areas of Northern Ethiopia and resume the multi-sectoral response operations with a sense of urgency.</p> <p>The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) was commissioned to support the Western Zone which was not accessible, and the Ethiopia Civil Protection/Defence was to ensure the security and continue to improve accessibility.</p> <p>March 2023, EDRM reported massive food aid diversion resulting to USAID and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to temporarily suspend the provision of food assistance to the region in early May. Government and humanitarian counterparts have put various efforts into tackling humanitarian aid misuse where, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has established a specific task force to work on the entire humanitarian programme cycle.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>UN organisations including WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM are active in Tigray. Joint Emergency Operations Program (JEOP) partners, led by the Catholic Relief Services and implemented through a consortium of partners including Care World Vision, the Relief Society of Tigray amongst others, are providing food assistance in response to acute food needs.</p> <p>During the 3rd round of distributions, which was launched in late December 2022, FSL partners have assisted 3.9 million people (73% of the total planned caseload of 5.4 million people for the region, including Western Zone) with 66,720 MT of food as of 8th of March. Out of the 3.9 million assisted, more than 314,000 people are IDPs. Among the main FSL partners, JEOP assisted 2.7 million people (87% of its planned caseload of 3.1 million people) with 45,703 MT of food; WFP and its partners assisted 1.17 million people (56% of its planned caseload of 2.1 million people) with 19,853 MT of food.</p>



Since mid-November 2022 when humanitarian food supplies resumed to enter Tigray, more than 166,000 MT of food has been brought into the region as of 16 March; and around 138,000 MT of food (for Round 2 and 3 of 2022) has been distributed to five million people as of 8th of March.

WASH cluster partners are preparing to scale up the WASH response. A rapid assessment in IDP sites is ongoing and the cluster is currently assigning a WASH focal agency. As of February 2023, WASH cluster partners have received 2,761 MT of WASH supplies, including water treatment chemicals and soap for IDPs, and distributed 84 % and 95 % respectively of the received NFIs.

Currently there are 6 organizations represented in the food security cluster in Tigray: (4 international, 1 local NGO and government disaster department working in the western zone) undertaking interventions to address food insecurity. Since mid-November 2022 when access was resumed and humanitarian food distributions commenced, 59 Woredas were covered on 88 from food security cluster data from the total target population which is 5.2M. Local authorities and communities, partners are working on re-targeting to include people who are newly displaced or experiencing secondary displacement in the caseload and identifying other most vulnerable people in need based on available vulnerability information (e.g. demographic and socio-economic data). This exercise has been challenging due to the context with increased population movements, high number of displaced people, limited or non-existing local government structure, presence of multiple armed actors in some areas, and lack of documentation among IDPs.

March 2023 EDRM reported massive food diversion resulting to USAID and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to temporarily suspend the provision of food assistance to the region in early May. Government and humanitarian counterparts have put various efforts into tackling humanitarian aid misuse where, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has established a specific task force to work on the entire humanitarian programme cycle, from identification of beneficiaries to assessment of needs, targeting and monitoring comprising of government and whole humanitarian community including partners and donors.

Following food shortage, mid-May, host community and internally displaced populations (IDPs) in Tigray's Mekelle and Shire towns demonstrated against the suspension, calling on humanitarian agencies and government partners to resume the distribution of food aid to the critically food insecure communities. Lack of food assistance will likely result in a sharp increase in acute placing U5 and PLW in the high risk.

To rescue the situation, Northwestern (NW) Zone, cash assistance to more than 700 households (HHs) comprising of IDPs and host communities were provided to alleviate their plight during the ongoing food pause. Meanwhile, community-based and faith-based organizations have continued to mobilize resources to conduct one-off, small scale food distribution targeting a few thousand most vulnerable families within the communities in several locations. More than 2,000 IDP women and girls, as well as 500 refugees in Sheraro Woreda were also provided with dignity kits.

Nutrition: In May, UNICEF provided SAM treatment to more than 16,000 acutely malnourished children.

ES/NFI: Support to 54,600 displaced people who returned to Gulo Makeda woreda, in the Eastern Zone with emergency shelter and non-food item (ESNFI) assistance, services in health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as with agricultural seeds to support farmers in the current planting season. Additionally, 1,500 IDP HHs in Maekel Adiabo Woreda received non-food item (NFI) assistance (blankets, floor mats, tarpaulins and kitchenware). Overall, ESNFI assistance to Tigray faces low ongoing activities due to lack of ESNFI items in stock, while it has only 28 per cent funding secured to date.

WASH: Partners are preparing to scale up the WASH response. A rapid assessment in IDP sites is ongoing and the cluster is currently assigning a WASH focal agency. As of



February 2023, WASH cluster partners have received 2,761 MT of WASH supplies, including water treatment chemicals and soap for IDPs, and distributed 84 % and 95 % respectively of the received NFIs.

Education: Support with school re-opening in Tigray, where over 80% of schools have been partially or severely damaged. This includes mine action, school's rehabilitation, back to school campaigns, equipping schools with teaching and learning materials, providing mental health and psychosocial support for teachers, teacher training on condensed curricula, and diagnostic of student learning /competency levels.

#### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

EDRM leads all response operation in collaboration with humanitarian organizations. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) led by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), and clusters are operational and meet regularly at national and regional levels. ERCS participates in clusters, ICCG and HCT with support from IFRC and PNSs. For all intervention strategies of this DREF, the ERCS ensures coordination with government authorities at all levels, relevant stakeholders, and thematic clusters to ensure complementarity, transparency, and coordination. As planned, ERCS works with community for effective accountability, where each community has established community committee responsible to support in beneficiary identification and feedback collection. ERCS will also conduct PDM, and lesson learnt workshop for reflective learning to improve on future programming.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

from rural to urban places which were more secure after their shelter being damaged, looted or burned. More than 130 IDP sites were established hosting 30% of displaced people, while majority 70% were hosted within the community. The conflict also caused destruction, of critical infrastructure, including residential, hospitals and schools. Communities lost their household items, food stock, animals, and seeds. All zones were impacted differently; however, the biggest impacts were observed in Northwestern, Central, and Eastern zones. Mekele as a regional capital have been receiving IDP from all over the region.



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

During the assessment, more than 96 % of the respondents reported that their primary income has decreased due to impacts of the conflict. This was also observed by the assessment team during the transect walk where several houses, crops and livestock were looted. In Tigray, these results are linked to the decrease curve of agro-pastoral activities which represents the main source of income of the population.

Livelihoods have been disrupted in different ways. 29 % of the respondents in the HH survey highlighted damage of community infrastructure such as roads, markets, and communication as causes of livelihood interruptions, while 34 % reported that they lost agriculture inputs.

Decreased access to food parcel for local production resulting from climate/conflict/migrations have led to less and less local food productions. Declining local production has immediate consequences on income generating activities of families with majority being farmers. Moreover, this has significantly increased the dependence to market supplies affected by price raising. Dependence to humanitarian assistance has continued in a context of low purchase power and poverty.

During the conflict period, farmers have been prevented from ploughing or harvesting, seeds for planting have been stolen, farm equipment have been looted, and livestock killed. Crops that were able to be sown have often been pillaged and destroyed.

Tigray region has been identified as one of the most drought-vulnerable crops-production regions. From FEWS-NET latest report forecast until January 2023, Tigray drought is still worst. The climate effect with drought increased and precipitation are still insufficient and extend hazards on agropastoral production. The number of people to be assisted and livestock to be supported is increasing, leading to bad coping mechanism for minimum food assistance. According to OCHA report on 8 December 2022, since late 2021, 4 million livestock have perished, and more than 30 million livestock are emaciated and at risk. This is an increase from 3.5 million livestock deaths and at least 25 million at risk reported by mid-May 2022. People are in dire need of immediate food assistance.



Food insecurity is worsening over the country driven by similar factors as Tigray. At the same time, deterioration of the hunger crisis in the country and bordering countries is enriched by chronic niches of complex disasters like Tigray which results on multiple humanitarian consequences spreading over to other regions and countries. The crisis in Tigray has affected several neighboring regions in terms of food insecurity resulting from the lack of production, deterioration of income for community's livelihood, migration and effect of health crisis. To have the best approach in the hunger crisis response and to identify the best integrated approach for this operation, NS will need to fully understand the dynamic between Tigray crisis and the overall Hunger crisis in the country; similar driven factors between Tigray and effects of ongoing crisis in the country to other regions.

Following the assessment conducted in the Eastern, Southeastern, Central and Northwest zones of Tigray region engaging the affected population, the most urgent need is food reflecting the factors mentioned above. It has not been able to practice any agriculture or other livelihood activities for two consecutive years as a result of the conflict, blockade to services, shortage of farm inputs and disruption of farming and irrigation schemes. The food insecurity severity is not only amongst the IDP but also amongst the general population in the host community. The livelihoods of the affected population have deteriorated and an increase of people in need of food assistance from 10-15% pre- conflict, to 75-90% post conflict was reported in the assessment. Currently more than 6.5 million people are reported to be food insecure.

#### Financial system and market

The gradual resumption of transportation, banking, and communication systems in January 2023, is slowly reviving the situation with limited access to some areas.

With the available resources being limited, the FSL cluster has advised to sustain the ongoing food assistance through the most appropriate modalities, complementing it with agriculture and livelihood support in collaboration with other clusters to improve food security in the region and prevent further deterioration. With better climate conditions, food assistance is forecasted to last up to next main harvest season in late 2023.

The existing DREF reached 1,000 HHs with one cycle of food distribution. To complement the emergency food need, ERCS seeks to extend immediate food needs to 4,600 HH (23,000 people) in the Tigray region.



## Multi purpose cash grants

From the assessment conducted January to February 2023, communities have lost purchasing power, supplies in the markets are also limited while the prices of commodities are also high compared to the same period two years back. Banking system, mobile money operations and telephone communication was blocked for almost 2 years. By the end of January 2023, the banking system had started to resume, with restrictions of withdrawing, 1000 to 2000 Birr, while government is scaling up the float for the bank branches with time. The assessment findings concluded, lack of money is the main challenge for the good functioning of the market and assistance through CVA is a good option, however cash feasibility remain to be an obstacle to the option. On the day of the assessment, WASH – NFIs distributed in the area were immediately sold in the market in Axum town indicating families have more needs than what was given.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The massive displacement forced more than 1.8M people to live either in collective sites or in makeshift shelters within the host communities. From the assessment conducted, water treatment and hygiene supplies remain to be one of the main challenges for the affected population which places them at high risk of disease outbreak that are exacerbating the food insecurity and stretching the leaving conditions.

Analysis of KIIs, FGDs and observation shows that the community members know how to use water and sanitation facilities and practices properly, but they are not able to wash themselves and their families because of the shortage of water and lack of income to buy soap.

With this DREF scale up ERCS will support 4,600 households with water treatment chemicals (Aquatabs), soap and dignity kits for women. 52 volunteers will be trained and deployed for 3 months to conduct hygiene promotion and support the distributions of the WASH NFIs and the orientation of how to use the NFIs distributed.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

From the assessment findings more than 50% of respondents experienced violence or SGBV in the place where they are currently live, while 72% reported the areas they resided to be unsafe. The long school closure and shortage of food and other basic needs also forced the community to adopt negative coping mechanism including early marriage and prostitution. The assessment also revealed less support for SGBV cases which need immediate attention due to damaged health facilities in the respective areas and absence of government



structures.

Vulnerable groups include people living with disabilities, children under five, pregnant and lactating mothers, elderly and displaced population among others are likely to face risk of common protection: Gender-based violence and child protection minimum. High rates of poverty, limited access to information and education, and limited access to food and primary health care have weakened Tigray families' ability to cope with persistent and new shocks. This exposes vulnerable people, particularly elderly people, women, children, and persons with disabilities to protection risks.

The resumption of services will improve SGBV services, and ERCS will conduct awareness raising including referral systems to support affected population to access services. All volunteers engaged in the operation will be oriented on PGI and referral mechanisms.



## Education

The two years of conflict disconnect the education system forcing more than 2.4M children to stop their education curriculums, while schools were either damaged, looted, burned or changed to IDP sites. Teachers were also among the displaced people for life saving. The assessment revealed majority of children especially girls experienced SGBV, and early marriage. Boys of adolescent age were engaged in war. The deliberate efforts for school reopening are ongoing with the Education cluster with the ministry of education, however the needs and gaps remain high, while more IDP are still residing in schools.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The formal information access was totally disrupted, i.e., no telephone, no transport and restricted free mobility. Most (63 %) of the community members reported that their preferred channel for feedback and complaints remained community meetings, 20 % religious leaders and 12 % help desk. Feedback via phone and SMS was not prioritized as most areas still do not have access to mobile network or they do not have mobile phones.

The respondents reported that information/communication with family members (33 %) was most important, followed by information on relief operations (26 %) and security information (24 %).

The surveys conducted have allowed to get direct voice from communities on their perception of the crisis and give them open place to express the most pressing needs they perceive. Hence, the main challenge reported by the respondents was food shortage (72%), security concerns (42%), health problems (31 %), lack of portable water due to major damage to infrastructure (12 %) and poverty (9 %).

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of this operation was to scale up the emergency response in Tigray to meet the immediate needs identified during the assessment conducted by ERCS after the access was granted to Tigray region in December 2022. ERCS intervention was initiated to assist the population most in need, while monitoring the situation and explore further possibilities for additional emergency support and early recovery actions based on the Government and ERCS response plan.

Operation initially launched on 15 December 2022, following access to humanitarian actors, to support assessment only aimed to deploy an assessment team from January to February 2023 and initiate assistance to a thousand households. The first allocation of CHF 171,007 helped ERCS to get a comprehensive report of the Tigray situation released in March 2023, position themselves and deliver the first distributions. Through the second allocation of CHF 822,542, ERCS was able to scale-up the assistance seeking to meet the needs of 5600 Households among the most vulnerable and deliver immediate humanitarian services to 50,000 People. The DREF objectives was essentially focused on the Food, livelihood, WASH, Health and protection critical support.

This operation set the basis for long-term coordination on the specific crisis with Movement and external partners in country. Elements of the recovery plan strategy and how this was intended to complement the emergency response phase of this DREF, are indicated in the operation strategy rationale. Refer to previous publications under this DREF appeal codes. [https://www.ifrc.org/fr/appeals?date\\_from=&date\\_to=&search\\_terms=&search\\_terms=&appeal\\_code=MDRET029&search\\_terms=&text=](https://www.ifrc.org/fr/appeals?date_from=&date_to=&search_terms=&search_terms=&appeal_code=MDRET029&search_terms=&text=)



## Operation strategy rationale

Following the signing of peace agreement between the two conflicting parties, The Federal Government and TPLF, November 2022, ERCS with the support of IFRC conducted the multisectoral needs assessment in Tigray region to get an in-depth integrated analysis of the situation after the two years of conflict. The assessment was jointly conducted with Government and engaging PNS in country. Assessment identified and helped to validate the immediate and early recovery needs of the most vulnerable communities by providing the necessary information and platforms to discuss the transition to the unified recovery plan that could address the specific context of Ethiopia north especially Tigray while responding to the immediate food and WASH needs. Assessment was completed in February, but report only released on 15 March 2023, with findings triggering the scale up.

While conducting the assessment, ERCS responded to immediate food needs to the most vulnerable unreached communities in some areas which were gaining access slowly. ERCS based on the assessment was able to scale-up the assistance and the below strategy was developed to address the emergency needs. In addition to that, the assessment results informed the recovery and resilience framework which was then communicated to partners for resource mobilization.

Contribution of the DREF was essentially immediate assistance following the opening of the access and strategy developed was as described below.

1. The immediate needs were drawn from the community feedback during the assessment conducted by ERCS in collaboration with government lead sectors with the support from IFRC from January 28 to Feb 10th, 2023. The results from the assessment identified growing needs in food security and livelihood, WASH, protection, shelter, health, and nutrition, aggregated by the two-year long conflict which put a halt to all the economic activities over that long period. Looting and burning of public and private properties and the blockade of transport, communication, banking, subsidies, and major services had a negative impact on the Tigray economy. The regional local government system and structures were disrupted since the start of the conflict, and in most areas were yet resumed at the time of the assessment.

Transition to the early recovery and sustainable long-term planning.

This operation through the assessment provided groundwork for early recovery and long-term planning decision making. To complement the result of the assessment through support of early recovery, ERCS under this operation scaled the assessment and conducted enhanced capacity and vulnerability assessment (eVCA) sampling two communities, in rural and urban setting. Both assessments results, capacity of NS and learnings from the current proposed interventions will provide groundwork for further planning to a sustainable early recovery and long-term planning.

The coordination with partners within and outside the movement has been very key throughout the operation at all levels. ERCS is permanent member of the emergency committees at all levels and has been participating on the coordination meetings with different clusters, and the senior management patted the HCT quarterly. Within the movement the movement coordination has 3 levels of coordination where updates reports and plans are shared for joint decision and resource mobilization. The assessment and recovery framework plans were jointly discussed and agreed among the movement partners, which was then presented in the donors conference for their buy in which progressed the framework to the recovery and resilience program, targeting to reach 2.6 M people in the Ethiopia north regions affected by the Tigray conflict (Afar, Amhara and Tigray), with the funding ask of CHF 200M for 5 years, targeting to emergence

2. Through this DREF, ERCS has provided essential food assistance to 5,600 households (28,000 people) with food portion per person as identified in the initial plan, 15 kg wheat flour, 1.5 kg pulses and 0.5 litres of oil per person per month making a package of 75Kg of wheat flour, 7.5 Kg of beans and 2.5 litre of edible oil. The ERCS staff and volunteers participated in beneficiary identification based on the agreed criteria jointly with identified community committee and ERCS conducted an online beneficiary registration using Kobo. The food was delivered to woreda offices, or the nearest identified locations agreed with the community committees, by transporters. However, the transportation of the entire package was challenging and had to be done by instalments.

3. ERCS also strengthened WASH intervention through this operation to ensure affected people do not go to disease outbreak. Total of 4600 households were supported with water purification tabs for 3 months usage, and 6 bars of soap for hygiene. Total of 54 volunteers were trained on WASH interventions covering demonstration of usage of water treatment chemicals, safe storage, and hygiene promotions. Key messages were developed basing on the MoH guideline and disseminated to the targeted areas, reaching to 100,250 people exceeding the planned 50,000 (Female 48,863, Male 51,390). ERCS will also integrate the sanitation mapping at HH level, to inform the recovery plans, which ascertained only 5% HH had latrines, meaning there is urgent need latrine construction at HH level.

4. To inform the recovery programming, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) was conducted in 2 woredas. A total of 18 staff from the zones were trained and supported the process. 2 Kebele were identified representing rural and urban context, Mahbere dego (U) and Ambesete Fekade (R) and participated in the eVCA process. The reports derived from the assessment were analyzed, printed, and translated into Tigrinya language and shared back to the respective communities for their resource mobilization. Nevertheless, these community-based action plans were linked to developing the framework to link the humanitarian to the recovery phase.



5. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI): The operation adhered to the IFRC Minimum Standard Commitment to PGI in emergency settings. Total of 64 staff and volunteers were oriented on PGI minimum standards, and each zone mapped the referral pathways basing on their context, and volunteers were referring communities to the secondary services where needs raised. However, the data collection adhered to disaggregation by gender (M/F), disability, and age distribution, (0-5, 6-12, 13-17, 18-24, 25-55, 55-64, 65+). The trained volunteers were also conducting community awareness sessions on SGBV, prevention and child safeguarding through community meeting reaching to more than 3400 people. The Ethiopia culture also supported the inclusion of disabled and elderly, as they are given priority through their social cohesions, which was maintained throughout the conflict period.

6. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) was mainstreamed throughout the operation mainly focus on ensuring the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders including the affected population with consideration of keeping them informed on every stage the program. The translation, of communication materials communication preferences. The community will be consulted in the establishment of community feedback committees for reliable and swift relay of information, feedback, and complaints. Sensitive feedback will be handled through the referral pathways. Communication and dissemination of fundamental principles will be a component of the CEA activities to ensure access and acceptance. For all intervention strategies of this operation, the ERCS will ensure coordination with government authorities at all levels, relevant stakeholders, and thematic clusters to ensure complementarity, transparency, and coordination.

7. Capacity strengthening of ERCS branches and volunteers:

To support the wellbeing of staff and volunteers, a two days MHPSS clinic was organized in the regional capital Mekelle, during the cultural celebration “the Ashenda” involving staff and volunteers engaged in operation. The technical MHPSS from the Danish RC Shire branch coordinated the event jointly with the consultant from Mekelle University, Among the planned events were theoretical presentations on stress relief, personal assessment, and outdoor events including Hiking, swimming, tree planting, sports, poems, and dance. The feedback from the participants was really positive, however facilitator recommended scale up of the cancelling sessions to volunteers, from the assessment results obtained. The branch took as a lesson for all the programs to include PSS for volunteers and agreed to organize the session for follow up.

8. Monitoring and reporting

This operation was majorly on assessing the situation to inform the recovery and resilience program. More than 5 monitoring session were organized with different teams to verify the situation, from the detailed assessment, beneficiary identification and registration, the senior management supervisory visit from ERCS HQ and IFRC regional and Geneva, WASH monitoring by regional staff, and PDM. The capacity building for staff and volunteers were conducted for each stage of the implementation especially in data collection and reporting. All activities were designed to inform more of the situation and real context. Eg, sanitation mapping on the hygiene promotion during H2H visits. All data collected were disaggregated to ensure different groups are well recorded to inform future. The data storage and protection were adhered to as all information were linked to ERCS EOC, and the access was limited to approved staff. Continuous coordination meetings were held at HQ and with the branch team, and DRMC at regional level and local government at woreda level to ensure proper coordination and avoid duplication of services and sharing of necessary updates.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

Following the assessment conducted by ERCS, this DREF operation is extending the target beyond the 1,000HHs initially targeted. The revised target of this operation is distributed as follows:

- 50,000 people in total will benefit from hygiene promotion that will be conducted in targeted areas.
- 5,600 households (HHs) will represent the main direct target for which NS will provide food assistance. Under this DREF, 1,000 households were provided with food assistance and this revision of the DREF will thus extend the same assistance to 4,600 HH. Additionally, 4,600HHs will meet the immediate need to access safe drinking water, hygiene and protection.

The 5,600HHs direct target represent 28,000 people (5,000 people initially and 23,000 additional).

The people are in dire need of assistance in Tigray and ERCS staff and volunteers are responding to the emergency. For specific areas targeted, NS planned to focus on the areas included in the multisectoral needs.

The area has been selected mainly as a result of:

- Presence of ERCS Tigray branch with better operational capacity in terms of staff and volunteers (29 staff and more than 52 trained volunteers on BDRT, first aid, and WASH).
- Excellent existing partnership with humanitarian partners and EDRMC working in Shire town (UNHCR, IOM. In most cases, the ERCS Northwest branch plays a leadership role.
- Safe access analysis.



## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The magnitude of impact within the region was very huge, the geographical targeting was jointly done with RDRMC targeting most affected areas which delayed regaining the access, and had no support from either partner, involving 4 zones and 8 woreda within the region. (Northwestern zone (Tahtay Koraro and Laylayadabi), central zone (Nader and Adet), eastern zone (Adigrat and Gulomekeda) and southern zone (Mathew, Raya Azebo). Beneficiary targeting was guided by identified criteria, contextualized for each area basing on their context this include displaced households who lost their breadwinner due to the conflict, households who faced major wounds and cannot work, women-headed households, women with many children, disabilities, elderliness, and other critical criteria identified during community discussion through the CEA approach.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	19,125	Rural	21.3%
Girls (under 18)	6,375	Urban	78.7%
Men	18,375	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	6,125		
Total targeted population	50,000		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Access to some areas still limited	<p>ERCS and IFRC coordinated closely with local officials and with the support of ICRC to ensure safer access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Implementation site selection considered security and accessibility.</li> <li>•IFRC also conducted security assessment in Tigray and identified all safety and security services and precautions to be taken.</li> <li>• All staff and volunteers were oriented to minimum safety and security requirement and signed code of conduct.</li> <li>• All volunteers engaged in the project were insured.</li> </ul>
Theft of food and NFI supplies	<p>EDRMC reported massive food aid diversion from UN warehouse, amid food distribution which paused risk of theft, NS increased the security including transportation insurance and ensured minimal storage time. (Immediate distribution on arrival). Initial food for 3 zones was shipped by the third party, who took all the transport risks (risk transferred).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The last zone, transportation supported from ICRC and by ERCS own vehicle, which were protected by transferring risk through procuring an insurance policy.</li> </ul>
Prices increased on the market for all the relief items to distribute	<p>NS kept monitoring the market and there was an increase of prices in the market that affected the food items and other relief items and services.</p> <p>The planning required to take measure to adjust the feasibility to the priorities and the identified vulnerable households were supported through these adjustments.</p>
procurement and Logistic	<p>ERCS used the approved single source procurement for food items, and the shipping was partially be done by the third party,</p>

	<p>who took the transport risks. (risk transfer), and the rest transported by ERCS and ICRC vehicles which were insured by the insurance policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inflation / under budgeted transportation cost which delayed the food and NFI transportation was resolved by using ERCS truck and requested support from ICRC trucks while covering the running cost.</li> </ul>
<p>Community needs may exceed the capacity of this operation</p>	<p>ERCS ensured the CEA mechanism is properly instituted, communication was strengthened to ensure communities were aware of the project, available capacity and participate in entire program cycle, including beneficiary identification and participate in complaints and feedback addressing. The community committees were established from each community involving all community groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERCS Managed the geographical targeting by engaging government structures to ensure the support is directed to the most in need woreda/Kebele.</li> <li>• ERCS Continued assessing and advocated as necessary to other partner organizations to contribute to unmet immediate lifesaving and longer-term recovery and rehabilitation plans, including dissemination of the assessment report..</li> </ul>

**Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation**

Although the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) signed an agreement on permanent cessation of hostilities including the resumption of public services in the region and the unobstructed flow of humanitarian supplies to Tigray and the region is gradually opening, the situation remained fragile in some areas. One concern is that target areas become inaccessible due to the deterioration of the security situation. To effectively work in a such sensitive environment, it was necessary for ERCS to keep updating the security standard operational procedures and security plans and disseminate them among all the team in a suitable language. SOPs on checkpoint behavior, field movement, and communications were documented and shared, and contingency plans for loss of communication were adhered, as all the team travelling to the field had to carry Satphones for emergency in case of communication failure. The IFRC, ICRC and ERCS had a coordinated security platform that provided periodical situation monitoring and timely advice to field personnel. All field visits were approved submitted for Security office for clearance before other approvals at IFRC CCD, regional and Geneva depending on the situation. To enhance safety, the IFRC and ERCS operation team were clearly identified by wearing the RCRC visibility gear.

All response teams received a detailed security briefing on the risk of the operation, in dealing with assistance in conflict areas. All IFRC staff must complete, and RC/RC staff and volunteers were encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management, and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training). First aid training, PSS, and safer access were mandatory prerequisite to be engaged in this operation. The IFRC security guideline were applied to all IFRC staff throughout.

All Branch volunteers engaged in the operation were insured and their movement were monitored and oriented following the regular security updates which were established through their telegram /WhatsApp groups. ERCS counts on the presence of volunteers and partners that could make a difference in the communities.

# Implementation



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 697,521  
**Targeted Persons:** 28,000  
**Assisted Persons:** 28,000



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of HH receiving food assistance	5,600	5,600
Multi Sector Assessment completed	1	1
Vol Trained eVCA	25	18
Woreda conducted eVCA	2	2

## Narrative description of achievements

- Rapid need assessment has been carried out targeting in most affected zones selected 8 Woreda communities with the involvement of the regional DRM, volunteers, branch staffs, IFRC surge and ERCS national office staffs.
- Beneficiary selection and registration had been done with the engagement of the community committee which was established from the targeted kebele to be able to avoid any misconduct during the selection process. Beneficiaries selected by the committees and ERCS staff and volunteers involved in the overall process of beneficiary selection, registration and food distribution. Complain and feedback handling mechanism has been set and used during the implementation process. The Selected beneficiaries' names posted, and communities have been given opportunity to inform if any inappropriately selected individual presented or regarding any discomfort they have. In adding to telephone and face to face meeting with the community committee complaint handling meeting carried out in some zones with preference of the community. Based on the delivered complaints the committee have been handling by giving feedback after favorable action taken.
- A total of 4600HHs (23000 people benefited) selected and Provided 75 kg of wheat flour 2,5 liters of edible oil and 7.5 kg beans for each of the HHs. A total of 3450 quintals of Wheat flour ,11500 liters of Edible oil and 345 quintals of beans have been distributed.
- Soap and WTC assistance. 575HHs are selected from each of the targeted woredas.
- A one-day Post distribution monitoring data collection orientation provided for volunteers who have been trained on Kobo mobile data collection tool during beneficiary registration. The PDM was conducted in Eastern, Central and Northwestern zones which were selected as a sample where the food distribution was carried out. The trained volunteers collected data from 230HHs (40%) of beneficiaries from each woreda and shared to ERCS HQ and IFRC on Kobo mobile data collection tool.

## Lessons Learnt

- ERCS has followed a direct Distributing approach with the involvement of volunteers and staffs in collaboration with Local government administration. In addition, the directly delivery of items to the target community without storing in Branch storage were appreciated, that created more thrust as addition on the national society reputation.

## Challenges

- The disproportional of the tremendous need and the provided assistance created a challenge during beneficiary selection.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 64,535

**Targeted Persons:** 50,000

**Assisted Persons:** 50,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Households receiving soap	4,600	4,600

# of women and girls receiving MHM kits	3,200	3,200
# of HH receiveing water treatment chemicals	4,600	4,600
Volunteer trained	52	63
# of People reached with hygiene promotion	50,000	15,146

## Narrative description of achievements

- The Hygiene and promotion training was given for the 53 volunteers and 10 branch staffs during the three days training integrated with other topics.

A total of 3200 girls and women between the age of 15-49 years have been identified, selected and provided MHM kit i.e. 400 girls and women selected from each of the targeted woredas. Each MHM kit has 2 under wear, 2 sanitary pad and 1 scarp.

- A total of 4600House Hold are received 6 bars of laundry soap each. A total of 27600 soaps has been distributed
- 4600HHs have received 67 pcs of water treatment chemical each and the treatment chemical called Bishan gari. A total of 308,2001 pcs of the treatment chemical have been distributed. each Pcs of treatment chemical can treat 20lt of water.
- Hygiene promotion activities implemented using d/t modalities (mass education, group discussion, house to house visits and peer education)
- Reached 100,253 people (Female-48,863, Male=51,390) in the targeted woredas (11,200 in Northwestern, 30127 in Central, 8673 IN Eastern and 50,251 in Southern)

## Lessons Learnt

- The strategy of deploying local ERCS volunteers has supported us to avoid the language and cultural barriers during the hygiene and promotion operations carried.

## Challenges

- Long transportation rout due to security reason has created over budget utilization compared with the allocated one.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 1,085

**Targeted Persons:** 80

**Assisted Persons:** 80

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Volunteers and staff trained on SGBV ,PGI ,and PSEA	53	63

## Narrative description of achievements

A three day Volunteers and staff sensitization on SGBV, Child protection, PSEA and PGI has been implemented. During the intervention the trained volunteers could demonstrated the practical application of minimum PGI standards (Dignity, Access, Participation, and Safety). All Wereda committees (one committee in each of the 8 targeted woredas) are aware of the responsibility they had carry as representative of the targeted communities. They had a clear information regarding what to do and where to go in case they have any project related complaints and feedback

At the end of the project one lesson learning workshop organized in Adigrat town which is the Eastern zone town to gather best practices and learn from a drawback encountered during the project implementation. During the workshop, stakeholders from Zonal DRM office, Woreda administration, selected community representative committee chairman, ERCS volunteers and regional and zonal branch heads have participated and provided and their constructive feedback and issues which needs to be improved in future



humanitarian similar interventions.

- ERCS has been implemented the humanitarian assistance in collaboration with ICRC particularly on the provision of transport Truck. The last zone, transportation supported from ICRC and by ERCS own vehicle, were protected by transferring risk through procuring an insurance policy.

## Lessons Learnt

- The SGBV, PGI, and PSEA issues were integrated with the community engagement supported us to be able to make the concept as well as the practice to be demonstrated during the intervention.

## Challenges

- The dispersed settlement of the community and absence of local transportation challenged volunteers to cover all areas of the targeted communities during outreaching.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 1,977

**Targeted Persons:** 105

**Assisted Persons:** 105

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of feedback mechanism in place	1	2
# of key informants identified	5	8
Percentage of key informant interviewed for the assessment	100	100

## Narrative description of achievements

- A total of 22 staffs and volunteers are trained on EVCA for 3 days and EVCA assessment conducted in eastern and central zones by selecting one woreda from each of the zones 2 woredas/kebelles by the trained participants.
- Community members participated in the community capacity assessment (Central zone-Naeder woreda=42 community members participated and Eastern zone in Gulo mekeda worda/Fatsi kebele=41 community members involved)
- EVCA material translated to local language and printed, and 78 EVCA materials distribute to project implementation sites and areas.

## Lessons Learnt

- The community knows each other interns of culture, language and live together within similar contexts to identify who should be most affected and need immediate need. Their engagement has helped the project implementation to be run in peaceful and smooth condition.

## Challenges

- Communities were raising issues which are beyond the objectives of the Project such as continuity of the assistance, additional people to be included.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 69,347

**Targeted Persons:** 2



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Surge deployed	1	1
Monitoring visit	4	4
donors round table session	1	1

## Narrative description of achievements

- This operation was majorly on assessing the situation to inform the recovery and resilience program. More than 5 monitoring session were organized with different teams to verify the situation, from the detailed assessment, beneficiary identification and registration, the senior management supervisory visit from ERCS HQ and IFRC regional and Geneva, WASH monitoring by regional staff, and PDM. The capacity building for staff and volunteers were conducted for each stage of the implementation especially in data collection and reporting.
- All activities were designed to inform more of the situation and real context. E.g., sanitation mapping on the hygiene promotion during house to house visits. All data collected were disaggregated to ensure different groups are well recorded to inform future interventions or planning. In that process, the data storage and protection were adhered to as all information were linked to ERCS EOC, and the access was limited to approved staff.
- 1 surge coordinator was deployed for 4 months to support ERCS in multisectoral assessment and developing the operation update and the recovery and resilience plan.
- 1 response surge consultant was deployed (same assessment surge)for 4 months to support the operation
- 1 donors round table session was coordinated with the support from Swiss embassy, and EU promised to host pledging conference, to be conducted early 2024.

## Lessons Learnt

- Using the assessment reports and disseminating to donors in the local context brings sense of ownership and inform more the work of the RC.
- Participation of different levels of management in monitoring creates more awareness on the real context and needs identification at their strategic level.

## Challenges

- For effective and timely assessment process a team of surge and data analyst is crucial to be together on site.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 64,595

**Targeted Persons:** 53

**Assisted Persons:** 63

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Staff and volunteers trained	53	63
MHPSS clinic	81	100

Staff deployed	1	1
Dissemination session	1	1

### **Narrative description of achievements**

- The CEA, PGI, SGBV, and PSEA training has been provided to Tigray regional as well as Zonal staffs and volunteers. Around 63 staffs and volunteers (10 staffs and 53 volunteers trained). in addition, related to beneficiary registration a one-day Kobo mobile based data collection tool training has been provided within the training days.
- Lesson learnt exercise took place and essential elements are integrated to each section.
- NS impact through this intervention was demonstrate under each sector. Early recovery and long-term planning were discussed and appropriate engagement was done with partners and different internal branches for next steps beyond this DREF.

### **Lessons Learnt**

- The trainings provided during the interventions has created a capacity to be used beyond the project period.



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

#### MDRET029 - Ethiopia - Tigray Crisis

Operating Timeframe: 15 Dec 2022 to 30 Sep 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/12-2024/8	Operation	MDRET029
Budget Timeframe	2022/12-2024/8	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 15/Aug/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>993,549</b>
DREF Response Pillar	993,549
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-955,000</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>38,549</b>

### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction		801,269	-801,269
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	742,860	87,858	655,001
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	68,730		68,730
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	1,155		1,155
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>812,744</b>	<b>889,128</b>	<b>-76,384</b>
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	95,544		95,544
SF12 - Effective international disaster management		39,534	-39,534
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	11,406		11,406
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	73,855	26,339	47,516
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>180,805</b>	<b>65,872</b>	<b>114,932</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>993,549</b>	<b>955,000</b>	<b>38,549</b>

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

# Contact Information

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[Click here for reference](#)

